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May 1951

RUSSWARD
Saintpaulia Growers

JONESBORO, ARK.

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News Letter

May, 1951

You still there?

Will forego the temptation to make an acid remark about the state of the Union and will proceed, instead, to the state of your African Violets. My goodness, the fixes some of you folks do get in!!! Harry has nothing on you.

Q. . . . they grow awhile and then just rot off at the dirt. Root leaves in water and plant them in sand and they rot off at the sand. Mrs. O.Y., N. Carolina.

A. Too much watering. You have to get 'em pretty wet to make 'em do that way. Usually, with crown rot, the plants just get limp, flowers get smaller and smaller, and the plant finally just gives up the ghost. Remember that this is a damp time of year. Your plants won't need as much water now as they might need in January, when the house is closed up and the heat on to dry everything out.

Q. If I raise violet plants from seeds may I give them names to my liking? Mrs. H.E.F., Pennsylvania.

A. With seven hundred (recent authoritative count) named varieties in existence, I can't for the life of me see where another couple of dozen names would make much difference. Of course, this doesn't imply that there are seven hundred different varieties. Only seven hundred names. Some collectors collect names. Some collectors collect varieties. There's a difference. Makes good material for a first-class argument.

A. to a recent Q. Someone said their violets were healthy but did not bloom. I had the same trouble. I used Plant Marvel fertilizer, and used REAL hot water and watered from the bottom. Now they are full of bloom and are beautiful. Mrs. M.N., Indiana.

Q. We started using butane gas for heating and cooking and blossoms immediately dropped off. Will they ever bloom again? Mrs. A.S.R., Kansas.

A. I've been told that butane doesn't make any difference in violet blooming. In fact, I know of a very successful collector who heats with butane. Do you suppose you have a leak somewhere?

Q. Buds blast and blossoms all drop off. Mrs. O.M., Kentucky.

A. From the description in your letter, Mrs. M., I think your particular trouble is much too much fertilizer. Your soil is very rich, and you are fertilizing, too. Pretty generous.

Q. Blossoms drop off. I feed or don't feed. All the same thing. Mrs. E.A.B., Kansas.

A. From YOUR letter, Mrs. B., I should imagine the suggestion of Mrs. N. of Indiana (see above) would help. Steam from the hot water would no doubt turn the trick.

Q. What twenty violets would you suggest a person keep if they were trying to cut their collection down to this number? Mrs. K.F.S., Detroit.

A. Gosh. Well, Mentor Boy, Blue Butterfly, Double Neptune, Red Beauty, (this is an old one but the best red in existence, I think), Double White, (with blue markings, coming out some time next month. If you want to book an order for this, incidentally, please send your three bucks along with it), Violet Beauty, Rose Marie (also will have in June), Ison, Blue Eyed Beauty, Snow Prince, Lady Loreta, Sailor Girl, Bronze Girl, DuPont Lavender Pink, DuPont Hybrid 5 (the pale one), West Coast Amethyst (the most cheerful little plant I know), Red Bi-Color, Gorgeous, Ruffles, and a Fringette either mauve or white.

Q. Can you tell me what to do about small green lice? Mrs. B.P., Nebraska.

A. Spray with nicotine sulphate.

Some condensed A.'s: MISS Z.T., LAKE WALES, FLORIDA: Sure, put it in another pot. Just get some soil, add about a third in volume of sand, get a larger pot, and pot it up. MRS. F.L.S., WISCONSIN: Don't know about a white sticky bug around the roots. MRS. W., OAK LAWN, ILL.: Modern houses being usually free of bugs which might crawl over your violet and pollinate it for you, it is usually necessary to do it by hand. There's pollen in the little yellow "eye." Apply it to the little stamen which sticks out to one side of the center. If it "takes", the blossom will fall off, and the stem that's left will not dry up, but the little pod will begin to swell. It will stay that way for many weeks. When it shrivels, it is time to slit open the pod and plant the seed in very fine, mild soil. MRS. J.D.C., CHARLESTON, S. C.: By all means put your plants in east or west windows, south if sun is not directly on them. You are giving them too much water, also. MRS. N.T., ARKANSAS: Have your daughter put her plant in a sunnier spot. MRS. H.Y., GEORGIA: Vermiculite (or sand) in potting soil, by volume one-third of the bulk. More for itsy-bitsy plants, or less for granddaddies.

Yours,

"Russ"

R U S S W A R D Saintpaulia Growers

JONESBORO, ARKANSAS

Sustaining Member African Violet Society of America Inc.

Ship To _____ Date _____

Street or R.F.D. _____

Town and State _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

If this order is being sent as a gift, please write your own name and address below since we would like to notify you of shipment.

Gift wrapping on request

**Does Your Order Total \$10.00 or More? If So, Please
Select A \$1.25 Variety As A Gift From Us.**

ARKANSAS CUSTOMERS: ADD 2% SALES TAX

PRICE LIST

Shipping Information—Plants shipped out of 2-inch pots. List price includes packing and mailing costs. All plants send Special Handling. We guarantee safe arrival of plants. To avoid disappointment, and to take advantage of frequent price reductions, order from the most recent Price List.

Yellow African Violet—Sorry we do not have one or know of one.

Climbing Afrcian Violet—We have a small stock of *S. grotei* under propagation at present. Will be many months before we can offer it for sale. Sorry we are unable to book orders on this.

Blue Butterfly—Old favorite. Medium to dark foliage. Flat, heart-shaped leaves. Medium light blue flowers in profusion _____ \$1.50

Blue Chard—Returned to the list after a long absence, Flat growth, elongated leaves, bright medium-blue flowers _____ \$1.75

Blue Eyed Beauty—Large white blossom with blue marking on the flower. Husky medium-green foliage. Remarkable for its vitality and profuse bloom. Three-inch plants _____ \$3.00

Blue Girl—Dark blue flower. Scalloped foliage _____ \$1.25

Blue Pet—Miniature. Girl foliage, round flat leaves with white spot at base. Dark blue flower _____ \$1.25

Bronze Girl—(Red-Lavender) Much the same plant as the Red Girls we have offered previously except for the color of the foliage. Dark, bronzy-green _____ \$2.00

Double Duchess—Double version of the old favorite Blue Boy. An improved Duchess strain. This one opens _____ \$1.25

Double Neptune—Loveliest of the doubles to date. Shows all the Neptune characteristics with double flower of excellent color _____ \$2.00

Diplotricha—Species. Commonly known as *Kewensis*. Pale green delicate foliage. Very small dainty blue flowers _____ \$1.25

Fringettes—Lovely rippled foliage, flowers frilled and crimped. All the rage just now.

Dark blue	\$2.50
Medium blue	\$1.75
Red Lavender	\$2.50
Mauve (supply limited)	\$3.00
White (supply limited)	\$3.00

Gorgeous—Exquisite red spooned variety. Dark green foliage, red reverse in good light _____ \$2.00

Gypsy Ann—Medium green foliage. Flower deeper than Blue Eyes shaded into darker center. Makes a handsome plant _____ \$1.50

Lady Loreta—This variety comes from the skilled hands of Olga Tiemann, of Westboro, Missouri. Many, many months ago, in our early correspondence about it, she remarked that she was at a loss to explain its' popularity since it was so much like the other Girls. So am I. Yet we have grown on plants of this, and visitors in the greenhouse invariably go straight to the Loretas to enthuse. You might say it's a "Blue-Girl-only-more-so". Leaves are a little broader and heavier, yet it isn't a Supreme-type at all. Flowers large, purple _____ \$1.75

Lady Marion—If you specialize in Girls, you'll want a medium blue somewhere between the shade of Sailor Girl and Blue Girl. This is it. Foliage is nice. An all-round congenial, self-respecting variety _____ \$1.50

Orchid Wonder—It hurts us when you folks don't order the really pretty ones the way you should. You're neglecting this one, and it's a shame. It's one of the very best. Pale orchid, shades to dark in center of flower. Excellent flat, slick foliage _____ \$2.00

Periwinkle—Lovely paler blue. Outer surface of the petals much lighter than inner, giving effect of tiny white border around flower _____ \$1.75

Pink Girl—Scalloped, medium green foliage with pink blossom _____ \$1.50

Rosie O'Grady—One of the finer of the modern pinks. Large pink flower overlaid with rose star _____ \$2.00

Ruffles—Dark, dark foliage. Very pointed, dentate leaves with crimson reverse. Pale blue flowers _____ \$1.50

Sailor Girl—Pale blue version of the popular Girl strain. Same scalloped foliage _____ \$1.50

Snow Prince—Brand new. Pure white and barely perceptible lavender tinge. Foliage lot like Purple Prince. Fine, slick leaves _____ \$3.00

Sunrise—One of the finer red-lavenders. Dark foliage with red reverse. Makes a startling display of wine color-tones _____ \$1.50

Violet Beauty—Done plumb run out of words. Plumb. If you've seen this, you'll want it _____ \$2.25

White Girl Hybrid—Predominately white flower with blue or lavender marking—some pure white. Beautiful girl foliage _____ \$2.00

